



53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic  
5 July 2023  
Speaker: Hiba Alhamed

Thank you Mr President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the Truth and Justice Charter and the International Service for Human Rights.

My name is Hiba Alhamed. I am an activist and the daughter of Dr. Ismaeel Alhamed, a surgeon and an opponent of both the Syrian government and ISIS. He was kidnapped by ISIS on the second of November 2013. Since then, my family and I do not know anything about his fate. My family and thousands of other families need answers to their questions about their beloved ones. We therefore celebrate the adoption of resolution A/77/L79 by the General Assembly, to establish an institution to reveal the fate of the disappeared and missing persons by state and non-state actors in Syria which our organisations believe will help provide answers to thousands of families who spent years waiting and asking for the fate of their beloved ones. We would like to thank the states who supported this resolution. This institution is a very important step on our way to truth and justice.

We appreciate the role played by the CoI, in its report and recommendations, in building the case for the establishment of an independent mechanism to reveal the fate of the missing.

We would like to emphasise the essential role, recognised by the resolution, that the families and survivor groups should play going forward. We should not only be providers of information, rather we want to be a part of the process of the establishing and functioning of the institution. Families and survivor groups, relying on their personal experience and years of expertise, will be apt to help and guide this institution to work effectively.

Thank you